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**July 3, 2003**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GUILTY PLEA IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE**

**Greenbelt, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Brent A. Machado, age 22, of College Park, Maryland, pleaded guilty today before U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. to distribution of child pornography.

In a statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, Machado admitted that while attending the University of Maryland at College Park in late 2001, he used a computer in his dormitory room to create a "file server" exchange, where internet users could upload child pornography into his program and thereby receive quantities of child pornography already in his file server program.

Machado faces a maximum sentence of imprisonment for 15 years, followed by three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for November 25, 2003.

The case is a result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's "Innocent Images" program. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James M. Trusty.